

Maternal Health Improvement Task Force

Spring Quarterly Meeting

April 25, 2023 | 2:30-4:00 PM ET

Prince George's Child Resource Center

9475 Lottsford Rd #202, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

For those joining virtually:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/smi-uuab-wte>

Or dial: (US) +1 302-440-5648 PIN: 103 951 284#

NOTES

In attendance (Virtual): Tanay Harris, Kelly Bower, Adriane Burgess, Elizabeth Chung, Gene Ransom, Kristen Newman, Nina Crowley, Tere Dickson, Tracey DeShields, Traci la Valle, Jeanne Sheffield, Lauren Arrington, Johannie Escarne, Cassidy Spence (MDH), David Mann (MDH), Kanika Harris

In attendance (in-person): Donna Neale, Nina Martin (MDH), Katie Richards, Sherri Burkholder, Ashley Milcetic, Alyson Jacobson, Kristen Brooks

Guest Members (Virtual): Site Visitors from HRSA, Site Visitors from CDC (Christine Cooper and Julie Zaharatos)

2:30-2:35 PM Welcome and introduction of new members

Co-Chair Neale opened the meeting and the group did introductions. Sherri Burkholder is replacing Stacy lobst on the committee as the representative for AHWONN. There were no other new members present.

2:40-2:46 PM Task Force Business

The group shared events they participated in or attended to honor Black Maternal Health Week. Kristen Brooks and Co-Chair Tanay Lynn Harris shared the events the Bloom Collective hosted. Co-Chair Neale also put forward to the Task Force members what activities the group may want to host for BMHW in 2024. Co-Chair Harris noted that it is important to center the people and groups who are already engaged in this work, and work collectively.

2:46-3:10 PM Update on Survey of Birthing Services in Maryland

Nina shared a brief overview of the birthing services survey and the overall goals. The survey was distributed to members in March 2023, and as of the quarterly meeting there were six responses. The group reviewed the preliminary data. Of the 6 responses, 2 identified as a state or local government, and the remaining reported they were a hospital/medical system/clinic/or institution; non-profit; private business, or other. All respondents noted they work regionally, with the majority working in Baltimore City, Calvert County, or Prince George's County. The respondents provide a wide range of services, including family planning, funding, health navigation, home visiting, and mental health services. Finally, the majority of organizations reported working at the preconception/interconception, perinatal/during pregnancy, and postpartum stages.

The Co-Chairs shared that the survey will be sent out in post meeting follow up, and requested that the survey be shared within member networks. An update will be shared at the next quarterly meeting on July 26, 2023.

The group briefly discussed the survey and next steps. A few members asked how the data would be shared or represented, and the group discussed that the results could be listed by program type and location. One member requested that services for new immigrants/refugees be provided to the list of services provided. The group also discussed similar efforts, and asked that members share any other inventories or similar surveys they know about. This is meant to be one tool to help individuals and groups connect with services, and we can share links to the other tools. One member asked how we would obtain permission to publish the results. Nina shared that the plan is to confirm the final product with the members prior to publicly releasing and have them opt in.

3:10-4:00pm Progress on the Maternal Health Strategic Plan Action Plan Update

Nina shared an overview of the strategic plan update process. At the last meeting, the Task Force was invited to join one of five work groups built around the strategic plan priorities, and use the “Retrofit, Revise, Reimagine” framework from Dr. Monica McLemore to guide their updates to the tactics and objectives. The work groups reported their progress to date.

Group 5: Workforce (Kristen Brooks and Clark Johnson)

Group 5 had met to discuss how to build out the maternal health workforce, and identified connecting with universities and education centers to reach students and trainees interested in MCH. They also discussed the need to connect these initiatives to funding to support trainings and incentivize professionals to join this field. There is a specific need for perinatal mental health. Several other members agreed on the focus for mental health resources, as well as housing. One member noted that the Governor’s office recently released a statement on internships for high school students, and the group discussed how they could connect with prospective interns.

Group 3: Families and Communities (Ashley Milcetic, Elizabeth Chung, Katie Richards, Alyson Jacobson)

Group 3 reviewed the update document they had prepared. They had updated the tactics with progress to date, and added a 6th objective to better connect families and communities in program planning, policy decisions, and allocation of resources. They also discussed who would be needed to provide updates, including care coordination programs and home visiting programs.

They requested assistance with identifying the contact for the community gardens and green spaces objective (Obj. 3.3), which Nina will follow up with.

The remaining time was used to break up into small work groups, and each group had approximately 10 minutes to meet and discuss. When the group reconvened, one member raised whether it would be possible to identify a facilitator to assist. Members also requested that the objectives and tactics for each strategic priority be shared in a Word doc. Nina will share this in follow up.

4:00PM Wrap up and closing

Nina closed the meeting by reminding the group of upcoming Task Force meetings on July 25, 2023 and October 24, 2023. Locations are to be determined, and all meetings meet from 2:30-4:00pm ET.